

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO
SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE NATO SUMMIT

1. CANADIAN DCM TURNER CALLED ON COUNSELOR
SONNENFELDT APRIL 9 TO REVIEW QUESTION OF NATO
SUMMIT AND TO SEEK FURTHER US VIEWS ON TIMING OF SUCH
A SUMMIT.

2. RECALLING EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MACEACHEN'S
REMARKS IN WASHINGTON THE PREVIOUS WEEK, TURNER SAID
THAT CANADA'S PREFERENCE HAD BEEN TO HOLD A NATO
SUMMIT AFTER THE CSCE. THE MAIN ADVANTAGE OF SUCH
TIMING WOULD BE TO ENABLE ALLIES TO PUT CSCE IN
PERSPECTIVE AS FAR AS PUBLIC OPINION WAS CONCERNED.
TO HOLD A NATO SUMMIT AT THE END OF MAY COULD RESULT
IN UNWANTED PRESSURE ON CSCE NEGOTIATORS TO WRAP UP
STAGE II.

3. SONNENFELDT RECALLED RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS OVER
PAST MONTH AMONG ALLIES REGARDING DESIRABILITY AND
TIMING OF A CSCE SUMMIT. HE NOTED THAT INITIALLY

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US PREFERRED A SUMMIT JUST IN ADVANCE OF THE CSCE.

HOWEVER, IN REVIEWING THE NATO DISCUSSION, WE SAW MERIT IN THE ARGUMENT THAT A NATO SUMMIT JUST BEFORE A CSCE WOULD GIVE TOO MUCH PROMINENCE TO THE CSCE ITSELF. FURTHERMORE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO COORDINATE

THE SCHEDULES OF ALL NATO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO AN EVENT -- A CSCE SUMMIT -- THE CONVENING AND TIMING OF WHICH REMAIN UNCERTAIN. MOREOVER, THERE HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS RECENTLY, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH MERIT DISCUSSION BY NATO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

4. AS TO CSCE NEGOTIATIONS, SONNENFELDT SUGGESTED THAT NATO NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA WOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD THEIR OWN ON THE FEW ISSUES WHICH MIGHT BE LEFT BY THE END OF MAY. MOREOVER, PRESSURE WOULD NOT BE AS PRONOUNCED AS TURNER SUGGESTED BECAUSE THE CSCE WOULD COMPRISE ONLY ONE OF MANY ITEMS TO BE TAKEN UP AT NATO SUMMIT. SONNENFELDT CONCLUDED BY URGING GOC TO REVIEW ITS POSITION ON THE BASIS OF CONSIDERATIONS HE HAD SET FORTH. TURNER SAID THAT HE EXPECTED CANADIAN PERMREP MENZIES TO RECEIVE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS IN TIME FOR PERMREP LUNCHEON ON TUESDAY, APRIL 15.

5. FOR OTTAWA AND USNATO: AS YOU CONSIDER USEFUL, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON FOREGOING IN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH CANADIANS.

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